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The Washington Post  
 The New York Times SEP. 4A-5  
 The Washington Times  
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 USA Today  
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## Double Standard In the Capital

By Patrick J. Buchanan

Looking back at Year One of our deliverance, 8 Aug. 1974 looms as less a victory for morality in government than a triumph by one set of politicians over another. And the conspicuous bond among the victorious seems less love of country than hatred of Richard Milhous Nixon.

From the atrocities unearthed and the skeletons exhumed since our "moment of shared wonder," one claim can surely be validated: When Mr. Nixon said his Administration was being judged by a double standard, he was indulging in uncharacteristic understatement.

Recall now the "Huston Plan," the blueprints of those who "almost stole America." It transpires that what Tom Charles Huston proposed and Mr. Nixon approved for five days — mail covers, surveillance, surreptitious entries and infiltration of extremist and terrorist groups — was a matter of routine for the Army, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency in the Kennedy-Johnson years.

And the significant difference between the Nixon wiretaps and those of his predecessors was that the latter were more numerous, productive and professionally managed. What Gordon Liddy failed to do to Larry O'Brien, the Kennedy brothers and L.B.J. did successfully to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The civil liberties lobby also covered itself with glory by looking the other way as John Mitchell and John Ehrlichman were denied the right to change of venue out of this poi-

soned city — a right routinely conceded to Russell Means and Joan Little.

There was also that unfortunate oversight when the special prosecutor, to the amusement of all, let the three-year statute of limitations run out on accusations that the amiable Democratic National Committee chairman, Robert Strauss, had as party treasurer accepted illegal corporate contributions from Ashland Oil.

The truth that dares not speak its name in this town is that both press and judiciary had a vested interest in Watergate convictions, an interest they were unprepared to jeopardize over something so insignificant as the civil rights of Mr. Nixon's men.

The respected Richard Helms is permitted to refresh his memory and revise his testimony concerning C.I.A. conduct in Watergate and the Chilean operations, while on Sunday Dwight Chapin begins a 10- to 30-month prison term for misremembering what Donald Segretti told him about political pranks.

The "Get-Nixon" gang could not have succeeded without Mr. Nixon's cooperation. They had been hacking away at his lifeline to middle America, with indifferent success, for 25 years. It was Mr. Nixon himself who severed that lifeline irreparably when he implored his people, again and again, to believe that which the "smoking pistol" tape showed not to be true.

If he had leveled with his people, they would have pulled him through. Still, when the trap door dropped beneath him, it was not truth, justice and morality visible at the foot of Mr. Nixon's scaffold but — heads bowed as in prayer — malice, vindictiveness and hypocrisy.

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